

REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, and the above amendment and following remarks are made in light thereof.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Office Action, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Northop et al. 6,460,483. The examiner asserts that Northop et al. disclose each of the elements called for in claim 1, the only independent claim in the present application.

By way of the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended to call for "filter connected to the pump for receiving pressurized water therefrom." This feature is not disclosed in Northop et al. Instead, water travels from the pump (56) to an intake chamber (46), from which it exits via channel (47) to an upper reservoir (48). The upper reservoir is divided into two portions by means of filter (50) (see Fig. 5). The water flows through the filter (50) and exits over the curved ledge (28) onto ramp (24), where the water slides forward into the container (22). (See Col. 3, line 52 - Col. 4, line 7.) The filter is not connected to the pump and the water is not filtered under pressure by Northop et al., as is the case in the claimed invention. Instead, the water merely passes through the filter membrane (50) due to the water seeking to be at the same level on both sides of the filter (50). Accordingly, applicant submits

that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Northop et al., and this rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to various of the dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that the examiner is mistaken as to his characterization of Northop et al. Specifically, claim 3 requires the bowl to have "two inclined ledges...extending in opposite directions away from the well along the interior wall of the bowl, so that the water flowing out of the well flows downwardly on the two inclines ledges into the bowl." The examiner asserts that this feature is found in Northop et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the examiner is mistaken. First, the "inclined ledges" identified by the examiner Northop et al. in Fig. 2 do not extend along the interior wall of the bowl. Further, the water does not flow downwardly onto the two so-called "inclined ledges" identified by the examiner. As clearly shown in Fig. 1, the water flows down the central portion of the ramp 24, as indicated by the arrows. What the examiner has identified as "inclined ledges" in reality seems to be merely the transition section between the ramp 24 and the surface that the examiner has (incorrectly) identified as the "recessed channel." Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 3 is not anticipated by Northop et al., and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 requires each ledge to include "recessed channel." The examiner has identified on Fig. 2 of Northop et al. structure

he contends comprises the "recessed channel." However, water does not flow down the "recessed channel" identified by the examiner. As noted above, Fig. 1 clearly shows that the water flows down the ramp 24. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 4 is not anticipated by Northop et al., and that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 requires the pump to include an air intake for aerating the water pump thereby. Examiner contends that Northop et al. discloses such a feature, but does not point to any aspect of the specification or drawings to support this conclusion. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no such air intake in Northop et al. Indeed, Northop et al. discloses that the submersible pump (56) is covered by a sufficient amount of water so that its suction port (58) is completely submerged. See, Col. 1, line 66 - Col. 2, line 2; Col. 3, lines 42-45 and Col. 4, lines 27-29. Thus, there is no air intake on the pump. Indeed Northop et al. consider the complete submersion of the pump as an important aspect of their invention, as it allegedly results in the operation of the pump producing minimal noise. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 5 is not anticipated by Northop et al., and that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 requires the reservoir to have opposite ends, with a handle associated with each end. In his rejection of claim 7 over Northop et al., the examiner identifies only a single handle (73). This handle is associated with only one end. There is no

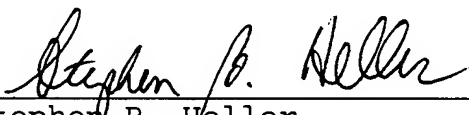
disclosure or suggestion that a handle be associated with the opposite end of the Northop et al. reservoir. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 7 is not anticipated by Northop et al., and that this rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 2 and 6, both of these claims are dependent from claim 1, and thus are not anticipated by Northop et al. for at least the same reasons that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Northop et al. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that these rejections also be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and an early Office Action indicating allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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